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HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE

REGIMENTS

OF

The Punjab Frontier Force.

By Authority.

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No. 1

REFERENCE BOOK
THE
HISTORICAL RECORD
OF
No. 1 (KOHAT,)
MOUNTAIN BATTERY,
PUNJAB FRONTIER FORCE.

“Peiwar Kotal,”—“Kabul, 1879”
“Afghanistan, 1878-80.”

By Authority.



LAHORE:
PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESS,
1886.

| YEAR. | Page. |
|---|--------|
| 1871 Inspection in January ; Lieutenant Elles transferred | 9 |
| 1872 Battery marches in relief to Dera Ismail Khan ; Camp Girni ; Inspection in January ; Lieutenant Plunkett joins ; Major Gillespie retires | ib. |
| — Captain Lewis appointed Commandant ; Inspections in November and December | 10 |
| 1873 Camp Panniala ; Inspection in March ; Appointments—Captain Abbott, Captain Swinley, Lieutenant Plunkett | ib. |
| 1874 Camp of Exercise ; Inspection in February ; Lieutenant Campbell joins | ib. |
| — Captain Abbott struck off ; Lieutenant Plunkett transferred ; Captain Kelso appointed Commandant | 11 |
| 1875 Inspection in January ; Battery marches in relief to Edwardes-abad ; Lieutenant Jervois joins ; Snider carbines received ; Inspection in December | ib. |
| 1876 Inspection in November ; The Field guns placed in Fort Dalipgarh ; The wagons, &c., sent to Dépôt at Dera Ismail Khan | ib. |
| 1877 Battery marches to Kohát ; Battery converted into No. 1 Mountain Battery ; Inspection in March ; Order of British India ; Promotions ; Lieutenant MacMahon joins and proceeds on furlough ; Jowaki expedition | 12 |
| — Furlough men recalled ; Jowakís | 13 |
| 1878 Lieutenant Shirres joins ; Jowaki expedition G. G. O. 738 of 1878 ; General Keyes' despatch, G. G. O. 738 of 1878 | 14 |
| — Afghan campaign ; Warned for field service ; Ordered to join the Force assembled to attack Ali Masjid ; Returns to Kohát ; Taken on strength of the Kurram Field Force, D. O. 153 of 3rd November 1881 ; Marches towards Thul ; Crosses the Afghan frontier | 15 |
| 1878 Reconnaissance of the Peiwar Kotal ; Assault of the Peiwar Kotal, 2nd December ; Marches towards the Shutargardan | 16 |
| — Return to the Kurram Valley ; Forcing the Sapri Pass ; Order of march ; Augmentation of 20 Gunners ; Altered to 8 Gunners and 12 Drivers | 17 |
| 1879 Attached to the Force invading Khost Valley ; Action at Matun, 7th January ; Return to the Kurram Valley ; Ordered to Kurram Fort ; Ordered to be augmented to 6 guns ; Detail of augmentation to 6 guns ; Extra men sanctioned | 18 |
| — Ordered to Bán Khel ; Order of Merit ; Lieutenant Bailward joins ; Reconnaissances in the Mangal country ; March for Karish | 19 |
| — Ordered to Kurram ; A half Battery ordered to Badshé Khel ; Massacre of the British Embassy at Kabul ; The Battery ordered to Ali Khel ; March to the Shutargardan | 20 |
| — Attack on the Shutargardan | 21, 22 |
| — G. G. O. 1186 of 1879 | 23 |
| — Ordered to Kabul | 24 |
| — Attached to Brigadier-General Baker's Brigade proceeding to Maidan ; Return to Kabul ; Attached to Brigadier-General Macpherson's Brigade marching against the enemy | 25 |
| — Action with the Kohistanis ; Action in the Char Dey Valley | 26 |
| — Attack on the Takhti-i-Shah | 27—29 |
| 1880 Lieutenant F. R. Thackeray joins ; Head-Quarters and Centre and Left Divisions | 30 |
| — Hissarak expedition, April | 31 |
| 1879 Lieutenant Jervois leaves Right Division in Kurram Valley | 32 |

CONTENTS.

v

| YEAR. | | Page. |
|-------|---|----------------|
| 1879 | Right Division Zaimush expedition | ... 33 |
| 1880 | Left Division joins expedition against Besud and Kama | ... <i>ib.</i> |
| — | Left Division, Jalalabad | ... 34 |
| — | Expedition to Kama ; Lieutenant Honner joins | ... 35 |
| — | Established strength of the Battery ; Casualties during the Afghan campaign | ... 36 |
| 1881 | Services of individuals and rewards | ... 37 |
| — | Lieutenant F. R. Thackeray leaves ; The Battery returns to India ... | ... 38 |
| — | Battery arrives at Dera Ismail Khan ; Head-Quarters and Nos. 1 and 6 Guns march to join Reserve Brigade W. F. F. ... | ... 39 |
| — | Return to Dera Ismail Khan ; Inspection in January ... | ... 40 |
| 1882 | Reduction to four Guns ; Increase of the Baggage Establishment ; Good conduct pay to N.-C. Officers | ... 40 |
| — | Major Morgan goes on 8 months' general leave | ... 41 |
| 1883 | Lieutenant Brownlow joins ; Battery marches from Dera Ismail Khan to Abbott-abad ; Major Morgan rejoins ; Major Morgan leaves, and Captain Shirres is appointed Commandant ; A detachment of the Battery proceeds to Assam ; New equipment received ; Ludhiana disease broke out at Abbott-abad ; Detachment marches to the front ... | ... <i>ib.</i> |
| 1884 | Captain Shirres goes on a reconnaissance ; The action of Tanga Pani ; Return march commenced ; Equipment returned to arsenal ... | ... 42 |
| — | Arrives at Abbott-abad 19th February ; Complimentary Order ; No. 3776½ A., dated 30th October 1884, from the Adjutant-General in India to Captain Shirres | ... 43 |
| — | Lieutenant Honner leaves | ... 44 |
| 1885 | Battery marches for Kohát 6th February | ... <i>ib.</i> |
| — | Battery marches to Camp of Exercise, Ráwálpindi, 16th March ; Battery increased to six guns. A. A. G.'s 355 C. of 13th March ; Battery warned for active service. April ... | ... 44 |
| — | Jamadar Anokha appointed 3rd Native Officer ; Lieutenant Underwood joins ; Four screw guns ordered ; Lieutenant St. John joins ; Lieutenant Brownlow attached to No. 4 (Hazára) Mountain Battery ... | ... 45 |





U. S. S.
C. III
19

HISTORICAL RECORD

OF

No. 1 (KOHAT) MOUNTAIN BATTERY, PUNJAB FRONTIER FORCE.

No. 2 PUNJAB LIGHT FIELD BATTERY was raised on the 1st February 1851, and Lieutenant Hammond, Royal Artillery, having been appointed Commandant, joined on that date. The material from which the Battery was formed consisted of 4 guns of Háfiz Bakhsh's Troop and 2 of Fazal Ali's Troop, Darbár Horse Artillery, all of which were present with Lieutenant Herbert Edwardes at the siege of Mooltan in 1848.

Raising of
Battery.

Lieutenant
Hammond.

Siege
Mooltan.

The Battery was stationed at Bannu, and the 2 guns of Fazal Ali's Troop, which were on command at Lattammar, joined on the 25th February 1851.

The first annual practice of the Battery commenced on the 15th September 1851. On the 15th November 1851 the Right Division, under command of Súbadár Amír Khán, was detached to the Gumatti Outpost.

Early in February 1852 the work of building the Battery Lines at Bannu was commenced, and was continued till the commencement of the hot season.

Lines built
at Bannu.

The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Hodgson, Commanding the Punjab Irregular Force, on 10th January 1852, and the following order was subsequently published with reference to the inspection :—

Inspection
in January
1852.

"The Commanding Officer has received the orders of Brigadier Hodgson, Commanding the Punjab Irregular Force, to communicate to

Compli-
mentary
Order.

the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Battery the expression of his unqualified approbation of the soldier-like appearance and general discipline of the men, and the state of efficiency of the Battery, which, the Brigadier-General has been pleased to say, would do credit to any Battery in the Service."

*Division to
Dera Ismail
Khan.*

On the 15th January 1853 the Left Division was detached on command to Dera Ismail Khan under Súbadár Amír Khán.

*Sheorani
expedition.*

On the 19th March another gun was detached to join the Left Division, and Lieutenant Hammond proceeded with this half Battery with the Force under Brigadier Hodgson into the Sheoráni Hills. This Force broke up on the 12th April, and this gun then returned to Bannu, leaving the Left Division at Dera Ismail Khan.

*Captain
Hammond
retires.*

*Lieutenant
Stokes
appointed
Command-
ant.*

Asni.

Captain Hammond was obliged, on promotion, to vacate the command of the Battery, and Lieutenant S. W. Stokes, who was then Commissary of Ordnance, having been appointed Commandant, joined on 1st August 1853.

On the 24th October 1853 the Battery marched for Asni, and on the 1st November the Right Division relieved the Left at Dera Ismail Khan, and the latter proceeded towards Dera Gházi Khan, arriving there in February 1854.

*Lieutenant
Stokes' death
at Asni.*

The Battery arrived at Asni on the 25th November 1853. Lieutenant Stokes died at Asni on the 21st May 1854, having been Commandant 9 months.

*Lieutenant
Maister
appointed
Command-
ant.*

*Quartered
at Dera Gha-
zi Khan.*

Lieutenant G. Maister was appointed to officiate as Commandant, and joined on 15th June 1854.

On the 6th December 1854 the Battery marched to Dera Gházi Khan, and arrived there on the 12th of the same month. The Centre Division marched to Dera Ismail Khan under command of Súbadár Míán Khán on the 2nd January 1855.

*Epidemic
amongst hor-
ses.*

During the hot season of 1854 there was an epidemic amongst the horses of the Battery, and 9 horses died.

On the 1st October 1855 Súbadár Amír Khán of the Battery was appointed Adjutant of the 4th Police Battalion.

On the 4th November 1855 the Wazíris threatening the frontier of Dera Ismail Khan, the Centre Division, which was on command at that station, was ordered out with the troops. The detachment marched a little after sunrise on the 4th November to Kuti, and arrived there (about 10 miles) about midday. Marched at 7 P. M. the same day to Kuláchi, and arrived there about 4 A. M. On the 5th marched about midday, and reached Rori about 4 P. M.,—the whole distance being about 40 miles, in 32 hours.

March to Rori.

Extract of Camp Orders, dated Head-quarters Camp Rori, 15th November 1855 :—

“The Brigadier-General cannot conclude this his last Camp Order without expressing his satisfaction at the manner in which the Artillery detachment accomplished the march from Dera Ismail Khan. At the termination of a long march, over a broken road, the horses were quite fresh and equal to any additional distance which could, in reason, be required of them.

Complimentary Order.

“This circumstance is the best possible proof of the gunners having been thoroughly instructed as drivers and of the efficiency of the horses. Although Lieutenant Maister's strong punchy little horses may not be able to gallop through a field day, on a parade ground, in as dashing a style as larger or more showy horses, he may depend upon it that on service his guns would always be to the front, and fit for any work.”

On the 1st December 1855 the Centre Division rejoined Head-quarters for practice. Brigadier-General Chamberlain reviewed the Battery on the 11th February 1856.

On the 1st March the Left Division was detached to Dera Ismail Khan.

On the 3rd April Lieutenant R. Meecham was transferred and Lieutenant G. Maister appointed Commandant.

Lieutenant Meecham transferred.

Lieutenant M. M. FitzGerald, H. A., is appointed doing duty Subaltern by G. O. G. 27th June 1856.

Lieutenant FitzGerald appointed Subaltern.

On the 30th September 1856 the Head-quarters with Centre Division of the Battery marched for Dera Ismail Khan, leaving the Right Division on command at Dera Gházi Khan. The Head-quarters marched into Dera Ismail Khan on the 16th October.

^{Battery arrives at Kohát.} On the 25th November 1856 the Battery marched from Dera Ismail Khan to the neighbourhood of Kuláchi. On the 7th January 1857 the Battery marched towards Kohát in course of relief, and arrived there on the 22nd January 1857.

Lieutenant FitzGerald joined the Battery on the 28th January 1857.

2 British Officers.
1 Native Officer.
6 N.C. Officers.
1 Trum-peter.
40 Gun-ners.

Expedition against Boz-dar Biluchis.

On the 17th February 1857 a detachment of the Battery—strength as per margin—marched from Kohát with the Mountain Train attached to the Battery to Kálabágh, and embarked there on the 20th for Daera Dínpánáh, where it arrived on the 28th February, and marched to Taunsa, and joined the Force under Brigadier Chamberlain assembled for field service against the tribe of Bozdar Bilúchís. The Force marched from Taunsa on the 6th March to Didachi, within the Bozdar hills, without opposition.

On the 7th March the Force marched and encountered the enemy in a strong position known as the "Khan Bund." The following extract from Field Force Order was published :—

Complimen-tary Order.

"The Brigadier feels deeply grateful to the troops for the gallant manner in which they carried the enemy's position yesterday, and it will afford him much gratification to bring their very excellent conduct to the notice of Government. The powerful assistance rendered by the Artillery contributed materially to our success; and Lieutenants Maister, Sladen and Meechan and the European Non-Commissioned Officers and the men well sustained the reputation of their arm of the service."

The Force remained in the Bozdar country till the 22nd March.

On the 25th March the detachment marched, *en route*, for Kohát, and arrived there on the 14th April 1857.

On the 22nd June 1857 a detachment of 10 gunners marched by forced marches to Amritsar.

On the 29th June Lieutenant FitzGerald proceeded to join the Force at Delhi.

On the 22nd March 1858 a detachment of two 9-pounder guns and 2 Mountain guns marched into Miranzai, under command of Captain Maister, and returned to Kohát on the 2nd April 1858. Miranzai expedition.

On the 20th October 1858 the Right Division, under command of Súbadár Mián Khán, marched for service in Hindústán, and joined a Division of No. 3 Battery under Lieutenant Cumberland at Lahore. A Division proceeds on service against Mutineers.

Lieutenant Ryan joined the Battery as doing duty officer on 13th November 1858. Lieutenant Ryan.

Lieutenant Craster joined on 12th September 1859. Lieutenant Craster.

Four guns of the Battery, under command of Captain Maister, with Lieutenant Craster doing duty officer, marched with the Kabul Khel Field Force under Brigadier-General Chamberlain, c. b., on the 14th December 1859, and returned to Kohát on the 14th January 1860. Kabul Khel Waziris.

The Battery marched for Bannu, in course of relief, on 3rd March, and arrived there on 8th March 1860. Battery returns to Bannu.

Two guns of the Battery, under command of Captain Maister, marched from Bannu on the 9th April 1860 to join the Tank Field Force under Brigadier-General Chamberlain, and were engaged during the night attack on their Camp at Palosi on the 23rd April. In this affair Súbadár Mardán Ali Shah and one gunner were wounded. Palosi.

The guns were also employed in forcing the Burrara Pass on 4th May 1860. Burrara Pass.

The detachment returned to Bannu on the 20th May 1860.

Captain G. Maister having obtained furlough to Europe, Lieutenant Craster assumed command of the Battery on the 22nd February 1861.

Captain Gillespie appointed Commandant. Second Captain Gillespie assumed command of the Battery on the 31st March 1861, having been appointed Commandant by G. O. G. G. dated 15th March 1861.

Battery reduced to 4 guns. The Battery was reduced from 6 to 4 guns on the 1st January 1861.

Lieutenant Craster joins No. 3 Battery. Lieutenant Craster having been appointed to act as Commandant of No. 3 Battery by G. O. G. G. No. 234, dated 15th March 1861, proceeded to take command of it at Dera Ismail Khan on the 1st April 1861.

Inspection. The Battery was inspected by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief at Bannu on the 7th February 1862.

Lieutenant Lewis appointed to Battery. Lieutenant Lewis, appointed doing duty officer by G. O. G. G. No. 229, dated 26th February 1862, joined 25th March 1862.

Inspection. The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain on the 19th April 1862.

Battery marches in relief to Dera Ismail Khan. The Head-quarters and Right Division marched for Dera Ismail Khan, in course of relief, on the 18th November, and arrived there on 22nd November, and the Left Division joined Head-quarters on the 25th December 1862.

Lieutenant Lewis joins No. 1 Battery. Lieutenant Lewis, appointed doing duty officer in No. 1 Battery, was struck off the strength on 20th January 1863.

Lieutenant Craster rejoins. Lieutenant Craster rejoined the Battery on the 19th February 1863, on being relieved of the temporary command of No. 3 Battery.

Inspection. The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain, c. b., Commanding the Force on the 26th and 27th February 1863.

The Left Division, under command of Jamadár Lehna Singh, proceeded on command to Bannu on the 26th September 1863. The Mountain Train equipment, consisting of one 3-pounder and one 12-pounder Howitzer, was sent into the Dera Ismail Khan Magazine in conformity with instructions on the 11th May 1863.

Division to
Bannu.

The Head-quarters and Right Division, under command of Captain Gillespie, proceeded into Camp at Dera Ismail Khan on the 17th October.

The Left Division rejoined Head-quarters at Camp Sultán ka Kote on the 27th January 1864.

The Battery returned to Dera Ismail Khan on the 19th February 1864.

Lieutenant Craster resigned, at his own request, his appointment as doing duty officer, and was struck off the strength from the 2nd May 1864.

Lieutenant
Craster
resigns.

Lieutenant Conolly, appointed officiating doing duty officer by G. O. G. G. No. 427, of 16th May 1864, joined the Battery on the 21st June 1864.

Lieutenant
Connelly ap-
pointed.

The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain, c. b., on the 30th January and 4th and 5th February 1865.

Inspection.

Lieutenant Conolly, transferred to Peshawar Mountain Train, was struck off on 14th April 1865.

Lieutenant
Conolly
transferred.

Lieutenant Rivaz joined as doing duty officer 4th May 1865.

Lieutenant
Rivaz joins.

The Battery marched, in course of relief, from Dera Ismail Khan on 4th January 1866, and arrived at Kohát on the 18th January 1866.

Battery
marches to
Kohat.

Captain Gillespie, having proceeded on furlough on medical certificate to Europe on 15th February 1867, Lieutenant Rivaz assumed command of the Battery.

Lieutenant
Rivaz as-
sumes com-
mand.

Inspection.

The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Chamberlain on the 6th March 1867.

Captain Elliot appointed Commandant.

Captain Elliot, appointed to officiate as Commandant, joined 5th April 1867 at Kohát.

Cholera breaks out.

Cholera having made its appearance in the Battery, it was moved into camp on the 21st July, and returned to Cantonments on the 20th September 1867, having lost one syce, one grasscutter and one bhistie.

Captain Elliot leaves Battery.

Captain Elliot was appointed to officiate as Brigade Major, R. A., Northern Division, and proceeded to join his appointment on 1st November 1867, making over command of the Battery to Lieutenant Rivaz.

Inspection.

The Right Half Battery and 2 Mountain guns manned by detachments from Left Half Battery, marched for Camp of Exercise at Gumbat on 15th December 1867, and were inspected by General Wilde in Camp, returning to Cantonments on 24th December.

Captain Abbott appointed Commandant.

Captain R. J. Abbott was appointed to officiate as Commandant of the Battery, and joined 29th January 1868.

Oublan Pass.

Nos. 1 and 3 Sub-divisions and 2 Mountain guns, manned by detachments from 2 and 4, were engaged with the Bizotís on the 12th March 1868 in the Oublan Pass near Kohát.

Battery marches to Bannu.

The Battery marched, in course of relief, from Kohát on 17th December 1868, and reached Bannu on 24th December 1868.

Captain Gillespie rejoins.

Captain Gillespie rejoined from furlough to Europe and resumed command on the 16th January 1869.

Inspection.

The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Hughes on the 4th March 1869.

Cholera breaks out.

The Battery marched into camp on account of cholera on the 12th November, and returned to Cantonments on the

1st December 1869, having lost two carpenters, one Bunniah's servant and one bullock-driver.

The Battery was inspected by Major-General FitzMayer, ^{Inspections.} R. A., Inspector R. A. Northern Division, on the 9th December 1869, and again by Major-General Hughes on the 8th January 1870.

Two Naicks, 7 Gunners, 33 horses and 9 bullocks were received from No. 1 Battery on the 1st July 1870, on its being broken up. ^{Transfers from No. 1 Battery.}

On the 3rd October 1870 Lieutenant Rivaz was appointed probationer for the Staff Corps. Lieutenant Elles joined as Subaltern on the 30th December 1870. ^{Lieutenant Elles joins.}

The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Keyes ^{Inspection.} on the 24th and 26th January 1871.

Lieutenant Elles was appointed Subaltern of the Peshá-war Mountain Battery on the 16th October 1871. ^{Lieutenant Elles transferred.}

The Battery marched, in course of relief, to Dera Ismail Khan on the 3rd January 1872, and arrived there on the 7th January. ^{Battery marches in relief to Dera Ismail Khan.}

The Right Division of the Battery, under command of Súbadár Mardán Ali Shah, marched to Camp Girni on the 10th January 1872. ^{Camp Girni.}

The Left Division was inspected by General Keyes ^{Inspection} on the 22nd January 1872, and the Right Division on the 26th January at Camp Zam.

The Right Division rejoined Head-quarters on the 26th March 1872.

Lieutenant Plunkett joined the Battery as Subaltern ^{Lieutenant Plunkett joins.} on the 30th April 1872.

Major Gillespie, having been allowed to retire on a ^{Major Gillespie retires.} pension, was struck off the strength of the Battery on the

21st September 1872, and Lieutenant Plunkett assumed temporary charge of the Battery.

Captain Lewis appointed Commandant. Captain Lewis was appointed Commandant on 11th October 1872, and Lieutenant Plunkett Officiating Commandant during the absence of Captain Lewis.

Inspections. Colonel Earle, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Northbrook, inspected the Battery on the 9th November 1872.

On the 28th December 1872 the Battery was inspected by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

Camp Panniala. The Battery marched to Tank and Pezu as part of the Lieutenant-Governor's escort on the 7th January, and returned on the 15th January 1873. On the 29th January 1873 the Left Division under Lieutenant Plunkett marched to Camp Panniala for the purpose of carrying on practice on the Sheikh Budin range of hills.

Inspection. The Battery was inspected by General Keyes on the 24th March 1873.

On the 27th February 1873 Lieutenant Lewis's appointment was cancelled and Captain G. Swinley appointed Commandant in his stead, and Lieutenant Plunkett was appointed to officiate as Commandant No. 3 Light Field Battery.

Appointments. On the 23rd April 1873 Captain Abbott was appointed Commandant of No. 2 Battery, and Captain Swinley of No. 3 Battery, and Lieutenant Plunkett Officiating Commandant of No. 2 Battery during Captain Abbott's absence in Europe.

Camp of Exercise. The Battery marched to Camp of Exercise at Panniala under General Keyes on the 12th January 1874, and returned on the 5th February.

Inspection. General Keyes inspected the Battery on the 5th February 1874.

Lieutenant Campbell joins. Lieutenant W. M. Campbell joined the Battery as Subaltern on the 7th March 1874.

Captain Abbott was struck off the strength of the Battery from the 30th January 1874, having overstayed his leave in Europe.

Captain Abbott
struck off.

Lieutenant Plunkett, having been appointed to the Royal Horse Artillery, was struck off the strength of the Battery from the 18th April 1874, and Lieutenant Campbell assumed temporary command on that date.

Lieutenant
Plunkett
transferred.

Captain J. A. Kelso, R. A., was appointed Commandant by G. G. O. No. 460, dated 30th April 1874, and assumed command on the 13th May 1874.

Captain
Kelso ap-
pointed
Command-
ant.

The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General Keyes at Dera Ismail Khan on the 6th January 1875.

Inspection.

The Battery marched, in relief, to Edwardes-abad on the 29th January 1875, arriving there on the 3rd February 1875.

Battery
marches in
relief to
Edwardes-
abad.

Lieutenant H. N. Jervois joined the Battery as Subaltern, *vice* Lieutenant Campbell, transferred to No. 3 Punjab Field Battery on 10th August 1875, in accordance with G. G. O. No. 703, dated 8th July 1875.

Lieutenant
Jervois joins.

Snider Carbines were received in place of Enfield Carbines in October 1875.

Snider
Carbines re-
ceived.

The Battery was inspected at Edwardes-abad on the 4th December 1875 by Brigadier-General Keyes, C. B., and again on the 30th November 1876.

Inspections.

The Field guns, with their limbers, intrenching tools and mule boxes, with 130 rounds per gun and 100 rounds per Howitzer were placed, as a reserve, in Fort Dalipgarh at Edwardes-abad on the 23rd December 1876, preparatory to the conversion of the Battery into a Mountain Battery.

The Field
guns placed
in Fort Da-
lipgarh.

The wagons, forge, carts and surplus stores, with all horses unfit for transfer to Regular Batteries, were marched to Dera Ismail Khan under Lieutenant Jervois on 25th

The Wa-
gons, &c.
sent to Depot
at Dera
Ismail Khan.

December 1876—the former to be handed over to the Deputy Commissary of Ordnance there, and the latter to be sold by auction.

Battery marches to Kohát.

Battery converted into No. 1 Mountain Battery.

Inspection.

The men and mules marched to Kohát on the 2nd January and arrived there on the 6th January 1877. The 7-pounder M. B. equipment was taken over on the 8th January 1877, and this was fixed as the date of the conversion of the Battery into No. 1 Mountain Battery.

The Battery, with its new equipment, was inspected by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Sir Henry Davies, on the 25th March 1877.

The Battery remained in camp at Kohát from 6th January to 21st April 1877, moving into the Artillery Lines on the latter date, on the march of the Hazára Mountain Battery to Abbottabad.

Order of British India.

Promotions.

Súbadár-Major Múrdán Ali Shah was admitted to the 2nd Class of the Order of British India on 1st January 1877, and was pensioned on 1st May 1877,—Jemadár Lehna Singh being promoted to Súbadár, and Havaldár Major Emam Dín to Jemadár.

Lieutenant MacMahon joins and proceeds on furlough.

Lieutenant P. A. MacMahon, R. A., was appointed 2nd Subaltern by G. G. O. No. 60, dated 26th January 1877, and joined the Battery on 25th February 1877. He proceeded on sick leave to Murree on the 9th August and was granted 18 months' furlough to Europe on medical certificate by G. G. O. No. 1144, dated 22nd December 1877.

Jowaki Expedition.

The Battery under command of Captain Kelso proceeded on service against the Jowáki Afrídís on the morning of the 30th August 1877. The Tortung Pass was forced at daylight, and the Force marched through the Turki Valley, burning the enemy's villages, and reached the camping-ground at Gumbat via the Kachi-nai Pass at 11 p. m. One gunner and 2 mules were wounded during the day.

The Battery returned to Kohát the next day.

On the 25th September the Battery marched to Gundíáli, near Gumbat, with troops from Kohát, to cover the building of a Fort to command the Gundíáli ravine; was engaged with the enemy on the 26th at Gundíáli, and returned to Kohát on the 27th September 1877.

Furlough men were recalled for service on the 8th ^{Furlough} _{men recalled.} October 1877.

The Battery marched again, with a force from Kohát, against the Jowájis on the 9th November 1877, and bivouacked at Paiah from the 9th to 14th November. Was engaged with the enemy on the advance on Paiah, and also during the retirement from it. Returned to Kohát on 18th November.

Half Battery—Nos. 1 and 4 guns—marched to Turki on 30th November, and on the following morning formed part of the left attack on Jamu. Was engaged with enemy for about 2 hours, and bivouacked at Camp Shindeh till 4th December, and then returned to Camp Turki. Proceeded to Garíba on the 7th December, held a position during the capture and burning of Garíba, and returned to Turki the same evening. Marched back to Kohát on the 8th December.

Half Battery—Nos. 2 and 3 guns—marched to Turki on the 26th December, and halted there till the 31st on account of rain.

Proceeded on 31st December with No. 1 Column to Garíba, and bivouacked there.

Retired on 1st January 1878 from Garíba, was recalled, and took up a position to cover retirement of troops.

Returned to Turki the same night, and on the 15th January 1878 proceeded to Jamu. Next morning covered

the taking of heights overlooking the Naru Khulla by 1st Sikhs.

Proceeded then with the rest of the column through the Naru Khulla defile, and was engaged with the enemy at the further end. Returned the same evening to Jamu. One mule slightly wounded in two places during retirement; one struck in the saddle. Proceeded again on 17th January through the defile, and was again engaged with enemy at further end. Returned the same day to Jamu. Returned to camp Turki on 18th January 1878, and was relieved by Nos. 1 and 4 guns under Lieutenant Jervois from Kohát on 20th February 1878.

The latter Division returned to Kohát on the 7th March 1878, on the conclusion of the expedition.

Captain Morgan, Commandant No. 5 Garrison Battery, was at Captain Kelso's request attached to the Battery throughout the foregoing operations in the absence of the Subalterns.

Lieutenant Shirres joins.

Lieutenant J. C. Shirres, appointed Officiating 2nd Subaltern by G. G. O. No. 1168, dated 28th December 1877, vice Lieutenant MacMahon, joined at Kohát on the 5th February 1878.

Jowaki Ex-
pedition, G.
G. O. 738 of
1878.
General
Keyes' des-
patch, G. G.
O. 739 of
1878.

Extract from No. 128 F. F., dated 8th March 1878, from Brigadier-General C. P. Keyes, C. B., to the Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Military Department.

* * * * *

"Captain J. A. Kelso, R. A., Commanding No. 1 Mountain Battery, is deserving of much credit for the manner in which he took his Battery over the very difficult ground traversed by the left attack on Jamu, and for the admirable practice of his Battery on that occasion. He was most zealous and energetic throughout the whole of the operations, and rendered valuable aid to the Infantry at Paiah, Jamu, Ghariba (on two occasions), and the Naru Khulla."

* * * * *

"Captain Harvey (Field Engineer) was ably assisted by Captain H. Morgan, R. A., who volunteered his ready talents on all occasions when his services could be spared from duty with No. 1 Mountain Battery, which he had voluntarily accompanied under Captain Kelso's orders."

THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN, 1878-79-80.
1878.

Afghan cam-
paign 1878-
79-80.

The Battery is warned to prepare for field service. On ^{warned for field service.}
October 4th.—Marched from Kohát to Pesháwar (38 miles) to join the Force assembling to attack Ali Masjid. ^{Ordered to join the Force assembling to attack Ali Masjid.}

October 6th.—Marched from Pesháwar to Hari Singh-ki-Burj.

October 7th.—Marched to Jamrud.

October 18th.—Reconnaissance, entrance to the Khyber.

October 21st.— Ditto ditto.

October 26th.—Ordered to return to Kohát, and marched ^{Returns to Kohat.} to Pesháwar.

October 27th.—Marched to Ahmad Chabutra.

October 28th.— Ditto Kohát.

November 5th.—The Battery is taken on the strength of the Kurram Field Force and ordered to proceed to Thal.

Taken on strength of the Kurram Field Force, D.O. 153 of 3rd November 1881.

November 8th.—Marched from Kohát to Uslazai.

Marches to wards Thal.

November 9th.— Do. do. Ibrahimzai.

November 10th.— Do. do. Togh.

November 11th.— Do. do. Surazai.

November 12th.— Do. do. Gundyar.

November 13th.— Do. do. Thal.

November 21st.—Crossed the Kurram River (Afghán Frontier) and marched to Ahmad-i-Shamo. ^{Crosses the Afghan Frontier.}

November 22nd.—Marched to Hazir Pir Zearat.

November 24th.— Do. do. Darwaza.

November 25th.— Do. do. Kurram Fort.

Reconnaissance of the
Peiwar Kotal

November 28th.—Reconnaissance of the Peiwar Kotal.
One muleteer killed in action. Encamped near the hills.

November 29th.—The camp, being under fire of the enemy's guns, withdrew to a greater distance from the hills.

December 1st.—Marched at 10 p. m. with the column proceeding *via* the Sphin Ghai to turn the Peiwar Kotal.

Assault of
the Peiwar
Kotal, 2nd
December
1878.

December 2nd.—The Battery advanced with the first line to the crest of the Sphin Ghai, a little beyond the enemy's stockades on which Captain Kelso was killed. At a later period in the morning the guns (under Lieutenants H. N. Jervois and J. C. Shirres), took up a position commanding the interior of the enemy's camp behind the Peiwar Kotal, and shelled it with such effect that the tents were set on fire and the enemy put to flight. The defenders of the Peiwar Kotal in front soon followed, and a general retreat commenced. This is considered by all who witnessed it to have been the decisive point of the victory; but it was not then taken advantage of, as a flank march of the troops which had been previously ordered had already commenced, and there would have been difficulty in countering it, owing to the difficulty of communicating orders to scattered bodies of troops in thickly-wooded hills.

In the afternoon the troops composing the front attack took possession of the Peiwar Kotal unopposed.

Casualties.—One British Officer killed; one Gunner and three mules severely wounded. The Battery now marched with the flanking column to Zabardast Killa, where it halted.

Marches to-
wards the
Shutar Gar-
dan.

December 6th.—Marched from Zabardast Killa to Ali Khel.

December 7th.—Two guns (Left Division under Lieutenant Shirres) marched with a force making a reconnaissance of the Shutar Gardan.

December 8th.—Head-quarters and Right Division marched to Rokian.

December 10th.—Right Division from Rokian and Left Division from the Shutargandan returned to Ali Khel.

December 12th.—The Battery marched from Ali Khel ^{Return to the Kurram Valley.} to Sapri.

December 13th.—The Battery marched to Isárik, ^{Forcing the Sapri Pass.} forcing the Sapri Pass. One Gunner severely wounded, and one follower killed.

December 18th.—March from Isárik to Shugani.

December 19th.—Marched to Kurram. Captain H. R. L. Morgan joined and assumed command of the Battery on this date.

December 25th.—Crossed the Kurram River and encamped on left bank.

December 26th.—Marched to Darwaza.

December 27th. ,,, Hazir Pír.

December 30th.—The undermentioned men are recommended for the Order of Merit for distinguished gallantry at the assault of the Peiwar Kotal (Court of Inquiry), *viz.* :— ^{Order of Merit.}

Havíldár Sappúrun Singh.

Naick Nihal Singh.

Lance-Naick Gul.

Gunner Chogatta.

An augmentation of 20 Gunners is sanctioned ^{Augmen-} (Government of India letter No. 352 K. C., dated 13th De- ^{tation of 20} Gunners.

Eight Gunners and 12 Drivers sanctioned in lieu of 20 Gunners (Government of India No. 805 K. C., to Govern- ^{Altered to 8} Gunners and ¹² Drivers.

**Attached to
the Force
invading
Khost Valley.**

January 1st 1879.—The Battery is ordered to march with the Force proceeding to Khost.

January 2nd.—Marched from Hazir Pír to Jaji Mardán.

January 3rd.—Marched to Bágħ.

January 4th.—Marched to Kúbi.

January 5th.—Marched to Matun (Khost).

**Action at
Matun, 7th
Jan'y. 1879.**

January 7th.—Engaged in operations against the enemy throughout the day. Expended 44 rounds.

January 13th.—Marched from Matun to Dubgun.

January 15th.—Marched to Matun.

**Return to
the Kurram
Valley.**

January 27th.—Marched from Matun to Sabri *en route* for the Kurram Valley.

January 30th.—Marched from Sabri to Budazai.

January 31st.—Marched to Hazir Pír.

**Ordered to
Kurram Fort.**

March 9th.—Marched from Hazir Pír to Baddesh Khel.

March 16th.—Marched to Wali Muham-mad's Fort.

March 17th.—Marched to Kurram.

**Ordered to
be augmen-
ted to 8 guns.**

March 11th.—The Battery is ordered to be augmented to 6 guns, the 2 extra guns being placed in reserve at the termination of the campaign, or when considered desirable. (No. 768 D., dated 11th March 1879, from Government of India to Government, Punjab, Military Department).

**Detail of aug-
mentation.**

April 13th.—The Battery was formed into a 6-gun Battery on this date.

The following extra men, &c., were sanctioned for the 2 extra guns, *viz.* :—

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 Havildárs. | 26 Drivers. |
| 2 Naicks. | 4 Muleteers. |
| 12 Gunners. | 10 Grass-cutters. |
| 1 Havildár Driver. | 8 Lascars, Pakhalis, Artificers. |
| 2 Naicks Drivers. | 26 Battery mules. |

12 Baggage mules.

Vide No. 697, dated 20th March 1879, from Government, Punjab, to the Brigadier-General Commanding Punjab Frontier Force.

April 16th.—Marched from Kurram to Habib Kila.

Ordered to
Bian Khel.

April 17th.—Marched to Tarí.

April 18th.—Marched to Bian Khel.

May 3rd.—The 3rd class Order of Merit was presented (on a parade of the Kurram Division at Ali Khel) to Havildár Sappúrun Singh and Naick Gul by Major-General F. Roberts, v.c., c.b., who complimented the Battery on the gallant service it had rendered at the Peiwar Kotal.

May 5th.—Lieutenant A. C. Bailward joined the Battery on this date.

May 16th.—Marched from Bian Khel to Ali Khel.

May 17th.—Two guns (Right Division) marched with a force making a reconnaissance in the Mangal country, and returned in the evening.

May 22nd.—Two guns (Left Division) marched as above.

June 5th.—The Battery is ordered to march with a force to Kariah.

June 6th.—Marched from Ali Khel to Hasti by a new and very difficult route over the hills.

June 7th.—Marched to Kariah.

June 15th.—Three guns (Right Half Battery) marched with a force making a reconnaissance of the Mangal country. Resistance was offered, and the force retired for political reasons.

No. 698 from
Government,
Punjab, to
Officer Com-
manding No.
1 Mountain
Battery, 20th
March 1879.

Lieut. Bail-
ward joins.

Reconnais-
sances in the
Mangal
country.

March for
Kariah.

Ordered to Kurram.

June 17th.—The Battery marched with the column en route to Kurram, halting half way.

June 18th.—Marched to Kurram.

A half Battery ordered to Baddesh Khel.

July 7th.—A half Battery being ordered to Baddesh Khel, 3 guns under Lieutenant Jervois marched there on this date.

September 6th.—The Left Half Battery was relieved at Baddesh Khel by the Right Half Battery under Lieutenant Shirres on this date. Both half Batteries marched through, leaving guns, ammunition and tents standing to be taken over by relieving half Batteries, there being no carriage available.

Massacre of the British Embassy at Kabul.

September 8th.—Intelligence of the massacre of the British Embassy at Kabul is received.

The Battery ordered to Ali Khel.

September 9th.—The Head-quarters and four guns of the Battery are ordered to join the force assembling at Ali Khel, and one gun (No. 3) complete is brought up from Baddesh Khel to join Head-quarters.

September 11th.—Marched from Kurram to Tarí (foot of the Peiwar). Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 guns with Captain Morgan and Lieutenant Shirres.

September 12th.—Marched to Ali Khel.

March to the Shutargardan.

September 24th.—Marched from Ali Khel to Karatiga en route to the Shutargardan.

September 25th.—Marched to the Shutargardan.

October 2nd.—Engaged with the Ghilzais, who attacked the camp (Shutargardan) in large force. Expended 44 rounds.

October 14th.—The Battery was engaged with the enemy throughout the day,—the Centre Division under Captain Morgan in the neighbourhood of the Surkai Kotal,

and the Left Division under Lieutenant Shirres nearer camp. The enemy were defeated at all points with heavy loss,—a result attributed in a great measure to the admirable practice made by the guns. Expended 51 rounds. Casualties, 1 Driver wounded.

October 15th.—Two guns (Left Division) marched to Kassim with a force covering foraging parties, and returned same day.

October 18th.—The Battery was engaged with the Ghilzais who assembled in very large numbers (10,000 to 15,000) to attack the camp. The guns were placed in position to defend weak points the previous evening, and the Gunners remained by them all night. Throughout the day they were moved about the camp to defend threatened points or to destroy *sungars* constructed within rifle range, the Gunners being covered by breast works of atta bags hastily run up on each occasion, or they must have suffered heavily. The enemy occupied the hills overlooking camp in great force, and were within easy range of the guns; but only those who came within rifle range were fired on, as it was necessary to husband ammunition on account of communications on all sides being closed. No water for men or animals was obtained during the day. The enemy had taken possession of the source of supply, and the guns could not be brought to bear on them without taking them some distance from camp, which the strength of the garrison did not permit doing. Information having been received that 4,000 of the enemy had sworn to capture the guns during the night or die in the attempt, a strong force of Infantry was told off for their protection, and detachments remained by them as on the previous night. About midnight an attack was attempted, but was not driven home.
Attack on
the Shutter
garden.

October 19th.—On the morning of the 19th the enemy still held possession of the surrounding hills, and they opened

a heavy fire on camp from *sungars* which they had constructed during the night. These *sungars* were quickly destroyed by the guns, but individual riflemen posted behind rocks continued to fire on the camp during the greater part of the day. An attempt to water the animals in camp was made about noon, but failed, one baggage mule being killed and several wounded. A small quantity of water for the men was obtained from wells which had been dug the previous day.

Attack on
the Shutar-
gardan.

October 19th.—About this time, telegraphic communication was opened with the relieving force from Kabul which had arrived at Kushi; and soon after the guns were turned on the masses of the enemy on the hills, keeping up a brisk fire for about a quarter of an hour, which must have done great execution, as the practice was excellent. According to information received by the Political Officer the enemy had 50 killed and wounded by this fire in one large *sungar* alone. A sortie was now made, and the enemy were driven from one of the sources of water-supply, where the *pakhals* were filled in order to water the mules in the camp. The enemy were now seen retiring in large bodies, though parties of them still kept firing on camp from behind the crests of the near hills. About this time Allah-ud-din Khan (brother of Padshah Khan, Ghilzai) was severely wounded by a shell which had been fired at him under the impression that he was one of the enemy's chiefs, as he was riding in a spot from which a party of the enemy had been driven by a shell a short time before. He stated he was in treaty with the enemy on our behalf, and had just paid them a large sum to disperse; but he was generally believed to be a traitor. He died of his wound (arm shot off) some days after. By 5 p. m. the whole of the enemy had retired.

Captain H. R. L. Morgan and Lieutenant J. C. Shirres were brought to special notice by the Officer Commanding

the troops for their services at the Shutargardan. Jemadar Fattu and Havildar-Major Shám Singh distinguished themselves during the same period. The conduct of all ranks and the cheerful manner in which they bore their privations and exposure to cold, as well as their steadiness under fire, was very praiseworthy.

The officer commanding the troops at the Shutargardan reported as follows with regard to the actions on the 2nd, 14th, 18th and 19th October 1879 :—

* * * *

“ Captain H. R. L. Morgan, Commanding the Kohát Mountain Battery.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the admirable way in which both Captain Morgan and Lieutenant Shirres of the same Battery have handled their guns on every occasion they have been engaged with the enemy. Both on the 2nd and 14th October our success was in a great measure due to the crushing fire of their guns.”

(On 18th and 19th October).

* * * *

“ Captain H. R. L. Morgan, Commanding the Kohát Mountain Battery, and Lieutenant J. C. Shirres, Royal Artillery.—I would wish to bring to especial notice the service rendered by these officers with their guns. I have never before seen such perfect Artillery practice, and in every engagement with the enemy our success has been in a very great measure due to the effect of their fire.”

Only 176 rounds were fired during the defence of the Shutargardan, the guns being fired sparingly, as there was no prospect of being able to replenish the ammunition-boxes.

October 20th.—Two guns (Left Division) marched with a force to the Surkai Kotal, returning to camp the same evening.

October 21st.—Two guns (Centre Division) marched with a force proceeding to chastise villages in the neighbourhood, and returned same evening.

Ordered to
Kabul.

October 29th.—Marched with the garrison to Kushi en route to Kabul.

October 31st.—Marched from Kushi to Pyo Khel.

November 1st.—Do. do. Beg Sultani.

November 2nd.—Do. do. Safid Sang.

November 3rd.—Do. do. Charasia.

November 4th.—Do. do. Kabul.

November 4th.—On arriving at the Bala Hissar the Battery and 3rd Sikh Infantry were formed up, and addressed by Major-General Sir F. Roberts, K.C.B., as follows :—

" It always gives me pleasure to meet No. 1 Punjab Mountain Battery and the 3rd Sikh Infantry, and this is more particularly the case now after your gallant behaviour at the Shutargardan. When the Force left Kushi for the march on Kabul there was only one point which gave me anxiety, and that was the post to which, with the 2¹st Punjab Infantry, you had been told off to defend. The safety of my right flank and rear depended mainly on the safety of the Shutargardan ; for if the latter had fallen the tribes would have attempted to hinder my march. The smallness of your force attracted them, and my march was consequently not molested. Repeated attacks were made on the position you were holding ; and so confident were the Ghilzais of their success that I hear they brought down their women to witness your discomfiture. You were able, however, to beat them off with heavy loss, notwithstanding their great numbers, and this shows how with the weapons you are now armed with you can hold your own against almost any number of tribesmen. You have set a good example to the whole Force by showing what a few men can do when properly led, and I do not think I could have chosen a better spot on which to thank you than here beneath the walls of the Bala Hissar, to the capture of which you have so much contributed. I am aware that the Viceroy has sent you a special message thanking you for your bravery, and I hope you have published it in your Order Books."

The Battery now marched to Sherpore Cantonment, where it encamped.

November 7th.—The Left Division under Lieutenant Shirres marched with a column proceeding to chastise villages harbouring mutineers of the Amir's army, and returned in the evening.

November 20th—21st.—The Battery (Centre and Left Divisions) marched from Kabul to Argandi *en route* to Maidan.

November 22nd.—Marched from Argandi to Maidan.

Attached to
Brigadier-General
Baker's Bri-
gade pro-
ceeding to
Maidan.

November 24th.—Marched towards Bamian, burnt several villages, captured a large number of cattle, and returned to camp in the evening.

November 27th.—Marched with the column to attack the enemy posted on the hills above Beni Badam. Fired 12 rounds. The enemy broke and fled after their leader had been killed by a shell (as was afterwards ascertained). Three villages were then burnt, and the troops returned to camp, where they arrived after nightfall, having marched about 25 miles.

November 29th.—Marched from Maidan to Argandi.

Return to
Kabul.

November 30th.—Do. do. to Kabul.

December 8th.—Ordered to march with a Brigade under Brigadier-General Macpherson, C.B., V.C., proceeding to disperse hostile gatherings in the neighbourhood, and marched from Kabul to Kila Ausher on this date.

Attached to
Brigadier-General Macpherson's
Brigade
marching
against the
enemy.

December 10th.—Marched with the main body of General Macpherson's column to attack the enemy posted on the Pughman range. On reaching the Surkh Kotal came in sight of the enemy's position above the Pughman villages. The Brigade was now halted to enable the baggage to close up, previous to attacking. In the meantime the Khoistani army was observed advancing on the right, and a portion of the Brigade with 2 guns (Left Division) was

Action with the Khoistánis. detached to occupy the hills on the right of the Kotal, and prevent the enemy gaining possession of them. The enemy's advanced guard had already ascended these hills, but they were soon driven off, and our troops advancing came in sight of the Khoistánis in immense numbers on the plain below. The guns came into action as soon as they got within effective range, and fired several rounds with good effect, on which the enemy retired followed by our troops for about two miles, the guns coming into action as favourable opportunities offered. The enemy were completely dispersed, and fled towards Khoistán.

This portion of the Brigade now halted for the night, leaving the remainder with the Centre Division of the Battery to hold the Kotal.

Expended during the day 51 rounds.

Action in the Char Dey Valley. December 11th.—Marched at 8 A. M. to attack the enemy seen on the Pughman range on the previous day, and picked up the force left on the Kotal *en route*. A junction with the Horse Artillery and Cavalry left at Kila Ausher on the 10th was to have been effected previous to the attack. After proceeding some distance heard the guns of the Horse Artillery already engaged, and observed large bodies of the enemy advancing in their direction. The Brigade advanced rapidly to cut off the retreat of the enemy in case they attempted to pass through a gorge in the hills separating the two forces ; and on passing through this gorge saw that our Horse Artillery and Cavalry were being close pressed by very large bodies of the enemy, on whose masses the fire of the guns or charges of the Cavalry seemed to make but little impression. General Macpherson's force advanced for a time at the double, the Battery mules trotting, but in the meantime the Cavalry Brigade continued to retire, and the Horse Artillery guns had ceased firing. Two of the Battery guns (Centre Division under Captain W. J. Campbell, R. A., who had

been attached to the Battery temporarily) were now halted with a portion of the force to protect the baggage in rear, as it was being threatened by bodies of the enemy on the surrounding hills. The remainder of the force, with the Left Division of the Battery, pushed on to engage the enemy, who were pursuing our troops retiring towards Sherpore ; and on coming within 1,200 yards of their main body, which had drawn up to receive General Macpherson's Brigade, the two guns opened fire, causing great confusion amongst them. (It was afterwards ascertained that the Horse Artillery guns had been abandoned at this spot, but they were concealed from view by embankments, &c.) General Macpherson's Brigade now advanced, and the enemy retired in two bodies—one towards the city of Kabul, and the other, which was apparently the main body, towards the hills. General Macpherson pursued this latter portion for four or five miles, the guns shelling them several times. He now halted with the intention of encamping for the night, and the Centre Division guns, which had done good service in keeping the enemy from closing on the baggage, rejoined head-quarters of the Battery. Orders were soon after received to retire towards Sherpore, and the Brigade was halted at Deh Muzang gorge, where it arrived long after dark. The men suffered a good deal from cold during the night, which was spent here, as tents, bedding and food had been sent into Sherpore.

December 12th.—The Brigade having been ordered to dislodge the enemy from the Takht-i-Shah, which they were occupying in force, two guns (Left Division) with the main body of the Brigade marched at daybreak to the Shahr Darwáza heights, the other two guns proceeding at a later hour to the right of those heights to aid the attack. On arriving on the Shahr Darwáza the guns commenced to shell the enemy posted behind a knoll

Attack on
the Takht-i
Shah.

about 700 feet below the summit of the Takht, and our Infantry advancing soon afterwards the position was captured when the fire of the guns was directed on the summit of the Takht at a range of about 1,600 yards. The cover (both natural and artificial) at this point was so good that no field artillery in existence could dislodge a resolute enemy from it, and, although the fire of the four guns was kept up throughout the day with accuracy that scarcely could be surpassed, the enemy still held possession of the peak at nightfall. Several attempts to take the position by assault failed, notwithstanding the gallantry shown by our officers. Orders having been signalled from Sherpore to hold the ground won, both divisions of the Battery passed the night in their respective positions, the men laying down by their guns and mules. No food for men or mules was received during the day, and only a very limited quantity of water for the former.

December 13th.—On the morning of the 13th the attack was renewed, a strong Brigade with two batteries having been sent from Sherpore to operate on the enemy's right, and by noon the position was captured. The Left Division guns ascended the hill with the assaulting column, and shelled the retreating enemy from its summit, after which they returned to the Shahr Darwáza, where they were rejoined by the Centre Division guns. During the night the party left to hold the Takht-i-Shah signalled for the assistance of two guns of the Battery, as they were being pressed by the enemy, and at daybreak next morning (December 14th) the Centre Division was sent up. The Left Division at the same time proceeded to shell bodies of the enemy who had posted themselves on the "Conical Hill" (Asmai) which they had captured during the night. A short time afterwards a Brigade from Sherpore attacked them on the opposite side, driving them under the fire of the Battery guns, which were thus enabled to do great execution, and the position was

soon recaptured, the enemy flying across the plain towards the Siah Sang. The attack on the Takht-i-Shah was also about this time repulsed, with the aid of the Centre Division two guns, and the force there was soon afterwards withdrawn, the Centre Division rejoining head-quarters. Up to this time our troops had been victorious at all points, but a little later in the day the enemy made a most determined attack on the force holding the Kotal on the Asmai range, which position they captured. General Macpherson's Brigade was now ordered to retire to Sherpore, which proved a very hazardous operation, as the enemy gained possession of the Conical Hill commanding the Deh Muzang gorge just as the Battery was passing through, and another large force which had captured the Bala Hissar was threatening to cut off the retreat of the column which had to pass through a portion of the city. The Battery, however, reached Sherpore with the loss of only one mule.

The whole force was closely blockaded in Sherpore until the 23rd December, when the grand attempt to take the place by storm was made. On this occasion two guns of the Battery were posted on E. Bemaru and the Centre Division near the village below, on which points the main attack of the enemy was made, large masses of them advancing to within about 400 yards of the position, and keeping up so heavy a fire on the ramparts that our troops were obliged to take the closest cover. Jemadár Fattu, who was with the guns on the hill, was recommended by a Court of Inquiry for gallantry on this occasion. Brigadier-General H. Gough, c. b., in endorsing this recommendation, stated :—"The two guns of No. 1 Mountain Battery under the command of Lieutenant Shirres attached to the force under my command at the defence of Bemaru on the 23rd December were exposed to very heavy and continuous musketry fire for some hours. The behaviour

of the men was most excellent, and I was much struck with the coolness and steadiness with which the two guns were worked." On the repulse of the enemy a small force with two guns of the Battery (Centre Division) was sent in pursuit, and drove bodies of them out of villages in which they attempted to make a stand, when the column returned to Sherpore (same evening). Casualties on 23rd and during the investment were, one Gunner severely wounded, one mule killed and two severely wounded. The Battery expended 626 rounds in actions between 10th and 14th, and on 23rd December 1879. Throughout the investment half the Battery was kept saddled ready to move at a moment's notice. As many Gunners as could be spared were detailed to work Afghán guns under an officer (Lieutenant Bailward).

Lieutenant
F. Thackeray
joins.

February 18th, 1880.—Lieutenant F. R. Thackeray is attached to the Battery, Lieutenant Bailward having been sent home on sick leave.

March 22nd.—Orders having been received to march to join the Khyber Line Force, where two guns of the Battery had already arrived from Kurram, the Battery moved into camp on the Siah Sang.

March 22nd.—Two guns (Left Division) marched to Lattiband.

Head-quar-
ters and Cen-
tre and Left
Divisions.

April 4th.—Head-quarters and Centre Division marched to Budkhak *en route* to join the Khyber Line Force.

Kabul Field Force Division Order No. 841, dated 3rd April 1881, is published, in which Sir F. Roberts records his acknowledgments of "the excellent services rendered by the Battery throughout the campaign, from its commencement in 1878, at the Peiwar Kotal, Shutar Gardan and Kabul," and states he feels sure the reputation it has gained will always be maintained. In taking leave of the Battery on parade

Sir F. Roberts expressed his great regret at its being taken from under his immediate command.

April 5th.—Marched from Budkhak to Lattiband, where the Centre Division rejoined head-quarters.

April 6th.—Marched to Sei Baba.

April 7th.—Marched to Jugdulluk.

April 8th.—Marched to Pezwán.

April 9th.—The Head-quarters with Centre Division marched to Sufed Sang, leaving Left Division at Pezwán.

April 10th.—The Battery is attached to the force proceeding to Hissarak under Brigadier-General Arbuthnot, C. B.

April 11th.—Head-quarters and Centre Division return to Pezwán with moveable column.

April 12th.—Marched into the Hissarak country (no tents taken). Came in sight of the enemy about noon posted in a strong position. The force formed up and attacked, driving the enemy from the hills; then advanced to Mazulla Khan's Fort and village, where it halted. Expended 6 rounds.

Hissarak
Expedition
April 1880.

April 14th.—Employed with a column making a reconnaissance in the neighbouring hills. Engaged with bodies of the enemy throughout the day. Expended 44 rounds.

April 16th.—Returned with the force to Pezwán. Two guns of the Battery with the rear guard were engaged. Expended 16 rounds.

April 18th.—Marched from Pezwán to Sufed Sang. Two guns and Head-quarters are ordered to Lundi Kotal, and two guns to be attached to No. 2 moveable column at Sufed Sang.

April 20th.—Head-quarters and Centre Division marched from Sufed Sang to Fort Battye *en route* to Lundi Kotal.

April 21st.—Marched from Fort Battye to Rozabad.

April 22nd.—March to Jalálábad.

April 23rd.—Do. Barikab.

April 24th.—Do. Bassáwal.

April 25th.—Do. Dakka.

April 26th.—Do. Lundi Kotal.

April 30th.—Lieutenant Jervois proceeds to Pesháwar to appear before a medical board.

Right
Division in
Kurram
valley re-
joins head-
quarters.

The Right Division, which had been left in the Kurram Valley under Lieutenant H. N. Jervois when proceeding towards Kabul in September 1879, now rejoined head-quarters. It was engaged with the tribes near Bad-desh Kheyl in October 1879. Expended 14 rounds.

In December 1879 it was attached to the force detailed for the Zaimusht expedition under Brigadier-General Tytler, c.b., v.c., and on the 5th and 7th it marched with columns making a reconnaissance in the Ali Sherzai and Momazai valleys. On the 10th it marched with the whole force to Jowáki, and on the 11th to Manathu in Zaimusht territory.

December 12th.—Marched with a flying column under Colonel Gordon (29th Punjab Native Infantry) to Pastaoni and bivouacked at Thanna.

December 13th.—Returned to Pastaoni, when it was ordered to join the main body, which had marched 10 miles further on. The *route* was so difficult that the Infantry ammunition mules with the column could not be got on, and were sent by a different road.

December 14th.—Marched to Chinárak.

December 15th.—Marched with a column to attack the village of Záwa, the enemy's chief stronghold. Came into

action at 1,100 yards from the enemy's position, and afterwards advanced to within 700 yards, shelling the enemy very effectively and driving them from the position, which was then occupied by our troops.

December 16th.—Advanced along the ridge captured the previous day. It proved to be a very difficult *route*. Several mules fell down the hillside, but none were seriously injured. Shelled the heights to the right of the Záwa defile to cover the advance of the main body of the force, and succeeded in driving off several bodies of the enemy who were advancing to attack the column in flank. Village of Bágh was then captured and burned.

Right Division Záwa
mushit ex-
pedition.

December 17th.—Marched to Chirárik.

December 18th and 19th.—Marched to Sparkote.

December 20th.—Marched with the column to destroy the village of Tanch and shelled and dispersed the enemy on the heights above.

December 22nd.—Marched towards Thal, which was reached on the 24th. Expended 60 rounds during the expedition.

January 3rd, 1880.—Marched towards Kohát *en route* to join the Khyber Line Force.

January 9th.—Marched from Kohát *en route* to Lundi Kotal and arrived on 16th January 1880.

May 14th.—The Left Division guns which had been left at Sufed Sang when the Centre Division and Headquarters marched for Lundi Kotal were, on 14th May 1880, ordered to march to Jalálábad to join an expedition proceeding to Besud. Marched on 15th May and reached Jalálábad on 17th, when it received orders to march with a force crossing the river on the next morning.

Left Divi-
sion Besud
and Kama

May 18th.—Crossed the Kabul River, the guns, ammunition, &c., and men who could not swim being taken over on

rafts, and the remainder of the men swimming with the mules. Halted for the night about a mile from the river.

May 19th.—Marched to attack the enemy, who was found strongly posted on a range of hills between two fortified villages. Their main body offered but little resistance, but a party of Gházís, who shut themselves up in a tower inside a village, could not be dislodged until the two guns were taken to a position in the village 30 yards from the tower. The tower was cut down to within a few feet of the ground by the fire of the guns, and the defenders killed with the exception of three or four, who rushed out, and who were cut down or bayoneted.

May 21st.—Marched to Beninga about 12 miles distant, and destroyed the village and towers of a hostile Khan.

May 22nd.—Sacked and burned the villages and crops of two Khans about two miles distant.

May 23rd.—Recrossed the Kabul River near Jalálábad,—a difficult operation, lasting eight hours.

May 26th.—Moved from the Cantonment at Jalálábad to the Wazír Bágh.

Extract from 2nd Section, K. L. F., Brigade Orders (No. 672, Field Operations).

“ Brigadier-General Doran desires to convey his warmest thanks to the troops employed during the recent operations in Besud, *viz.* :—

* * * * *

“ Division No. 1 (Kohát) Mountain Battery under Lieutenant Thackeray, R. A.

* * * * *

“ In those few days every attribute of good soldiers was called for and displayed.

“ The endurance of the troops was tested by severe marching and exposure under the fiercest sun. Their discipline was perfect. Their steadiness was proved by the ascertained effect of their fire. Their gallantry where opportunity offered was conspicuous and seen by all.

Left Division
Jalálábad.

"The passage of the Kabul River with the very scanty appliances available was in itself a feat of which the troops may well be proud. The whole of the horses and a large proportion of the men of three troops of the Central India Horse, and the whole of the mules of a division of No. 1 (Kohát) Mountain Battery with their Drivers swam this formidable river at a place 400 yards in width and having a velocity estimated at between six and seven miles an hour. This was achieved with the loss of but one Driver (Transport Central India Horse) and a cavalry horse. The Brigadier-General believes that no record of such a feat can be found in our military history.

"The troops will hereafter learn that Brigadier-General Doran has in his despatches borne witness to their excellent services in no measured terms. He is confident that no page in the history of this campaign will bear higher testimony to the sterling value of our troops than that which tells of the operations in Besud in May 1880.

"Brigadier-General Doran desires that this order may be entered in the records of every corps concerned."

(Sd.) HUGH PEARSON, Major,

Brigade-Major, 2nd Section, K. L. F.

June 1st.—Marched to Girdi Kus with the force detailed ^{Expedition to Kama.} for the Káma expedition.

June 3rd.—Crossed the Kabul River, the guns, &c., being taken on rafts, and the mules and most of the men swimming as at Besud. Bivouacked for the night on an island, and crossed to the left bank in the morning.

June 5th.—Marched to destroy four forts whose owners had given shelter to the Mulah Kalil. No opposition.

June 6th.—Recrossed to Girdi Kus. The rafts had been wrecked, which greatly delayed the crossing, the Division not getting to camp until midnight.

June 7th.—Marched to Ali Bogan.

June 8th.—Marched to Wazir Bágh.

June 12th.—Lieutenant W. J. Honner joins head-quarters ^{Lieutenant Honner joins.} at Lundi Kotal.

August 12th.—Marched *en route* to rejoin Battery head-quarters at Lundi Kotal, and arrived on 17th August.

Established
Strength
in 1880.

August 17th.—The six guns of the Battery were now together for the first time during the past year. The established strength at this period was as under—

| British Officers. | Subadars. | Jamadars. | Havildar-Major and Pay Havildár. | Havildars. | Naicks. | Trumpeters. | Ferriers. | Salutis. | Gunners. | Havildars of Drivers. | Naicks of Drivers. | Drivers. | Muleteers. | Grand total of all ranks. |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|---------|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------|------------|---------------------------|
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 80 | 3 | 6 | 123 | 12 | 248 |

Orders were soon afterwards received for the reduction of one British Officer, eight Gunners and twelve Drivers on the return of the Battery to India. The six guns to be retained until further orders.

Casualties
during the
Afghan
Campaign.

The casualties during the campaign were—

| Particulars. | British Officers. | Native officers, Non-commissioned officers and men. | Total. | Battery mules. | Horses (Officers.) | Battery followers. |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|--------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Killed in action ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Died of disease on service ... | | 40 | 40 | ... | ... | 205 |
| Wounded severely ... | ... | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 ^a | ... |
| Wounded slightly ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Total ... | 1 | 45 | 46 | 5 | 1 | 22 |

(a) Lieutenant Shirres's charger.

(b) Including mistri smith, mistri carpenter and mochie.

Gun ammunition expended during the campaign, 1,077 rounds. The small number of casualties in action is owing to the fact that the Gunners work the guns in a sitting posture, and were always kept well under cover when exposed to fire

at short ranges, as at Bemáru, 400 yards ; Besud, 30 yards ; &c. Most of the deaths were caused by pneumonia brought on by exposure in a severe climate, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Peiwar Kotal in December 1878, and near Kábul in December 1879, when the men had to spend several nights in the field without tents, and on a few occasions without blankets.

March 2nd 1881.—The following rewards were conferred on individuals for services with the Battery during the campaign, *viz.* :—

Captain H. R. L. Morgan to be Brevet Major.

(Lieutenant J. C. Shirres, who distinguished himself throughout the campaign, was specially selected by Sir F. Roberts for appointment to the Royal Horse Artillery as a reward for his services, but he preferred remaining in the Battery, with the prospect of obtaining the command of it when it should become vacant.)

Lieutenant F. R. Thackeray was appointed to the Royal Horse Artillery in recognition of his services with a division of the Battery at Besúd in May 1880.

The undermentioned men were granted the Order of Merit, 3rd class, for gallantry in the field, *viz.* :—

Havildár Sappurun Singh (now Havildár Major).

Naick Nihál Singh (since dead).

Lance-Naick Gul (now Havildár).

Gunner Chowgutta (since dead).

Jemadar Fattu and Kote Havildár Anokha both distinguished themselves for their energy, zeal and ability throughout the campaign, and the excellent example they set the men on all occasions. The former was recommended for the Order of Merit by a Court of Inquiry, and by Generals H. Gough, v.c., c.b., and Macpherson, c.b., v.c., for gallantry during the repulse of the attack on Sherpore on 23rd December 1879. The order, however, was not granted, owing to the delay in

Services and rewards.

bringing forward the claim, and the acts* not being considered of the nature for which the order is usually granted.

The conduct of all ranks throughout the campaign, whether in action or suffering from cold and hunger, was most exemplary.

G. G. O. 418, dated 29th July 1881, announces that "Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India has been graciously pleased to permit the following corps to bear on their colors or appointments the words specified below, in commemoration of their gallant conduct during the recent campaigns in Afghánistán" :—

No. I (Koháit) Punjab Mountain Battery.

" Peiwar Kotal."

" Kabul 1879."

" Afghánistán 1878-80."

* * * *

Lieutenant
F. R. Thackeray leaves.

March 16th.—Lieutenant Thackeray is struck off the strength of the Battery on appointment to the Royal Horse Artillery.

The Battery
returns to
India.

March 18th.—Orders are received for the evacuation of the Khyber, and the Battery is detailed for Dera Ismail Khan on return to India, with the possibility of being taken on the projected Waziri expedition if it can reach Edwardes-abád in time. The Right Half Battery marched with a portion of the Lundi Kotal garrison for Shahgái *en route* to Pesháwar.

March 19th.—The Head-quarters and Left Half Battery marched with remainder of Lundi Kotal garrison for Shahgái, and the Left Half Battery marched to Hari Singh ki Burj.

* Saving a gun for several hours while exposed to a heavy musketry fire at short range, the remainder of the gun detachment and the infantry being at the same time kept under the closest cover.

March 21st.—Head-quarters and half Battery marched to Hari Singh ki Burj, and was rejoined by Right Half Battery.

March 22nd.—The Battery marched to Pesháwar, when its transport (118 mules) was taken for exchange by the Commissariat Department. Halted on the 23rd for want of carriage. Received carriage at noon on 24th, when camp was struck and the Battery marched to Matani. Marched to Kohát on 25th. Halted at Kohát on 26th to dispose of effects of deceased men, &c., and Battery heavy stores, which had been left at the dépôt there on proceeding on field service in 1878. Marched for Edwardes-abád, the head-quarters of the Wazíri Field Force, on the 27th, and arrived on the 31st March. Owing to the uncertainty of the movements of the Khyber Brigade, another Battery had been detailed to replace the Battery in the Wazíri Field Force, but the Brigadier-General Commanding halted the Battery at Edwardes-abád, pending a reference to Government on the subject. On existing arrangements being confirmed the Battery was ordered to march for Dera Ismail Khan on the 2nd April, and it arrived on 7th April.

April 18th.—Some days afterwards orders were received to detail two guns (with permission for Head-quarters to accompany them) to join Brigadier-General Gordon's Brigade at Edwardes-abád, and on the 18th the guns marched, reaching Edwardes-abád on the 23rd, and joining General Gordon's Brigade in camp at Mirian on the 25th April 1881.

May 4th.—March to Spin Wom, crossing the Wazíri Frontier.

May 5th.—March to Dawa Warka Burj.

May 6th.—Do. Suraho.

May 7th.—Do. Rázani.

May 9th.—Do. Razmuk.

Battery arrives at
Dera Ismail Khan.

Head-quarters and Nos.
1 and 6 guns
march to
join Reserve
Brigade
W. F. F.

March 10th.—In accordance with Wazíri Field Force Orders marched to Makin, joining the Force under the immediate command of Brigadier-General Kennedy, c.b., Commanding the Expedition.

May 13th.—March with the Force to Junjal.

May 14th.—Do. Suri Munji Kuch.

May 15th.—Do. Murki Bund.

May 16th.—Do. Jhandula.

May 17th.—Do. Zam, recrossing Waziri Fron-tier.

May 18th.—Do. Tank.

May 19th.—March for Dera Ismail Khan, arriving on the 21st May 1881.

Inspection. The Battery was inspected by Brigadier-General T. G. Kennedy, c.b., at Dera Ismail Khan, on the 26th January 1882 and following days.

Reduction to 4 guns. Intimation is received (27th January 1882) that the two extra guns and equipments are to be returned into Ordnance Store (No. 49 B., dated 14th January 1882, from the Military Secretary, Government of India, to the Military Secretary, Government, Punjab).

The two extra guns were returned to the Ordnance Department on the 22nd July 1882, and the strength of the Battery returned as four guns from 23rd July 1882.

Increase of the baggage establishment. Intimation is received on the 12th August 1882 that the baggage establishment of the Battery is to be increased by 24 mules.

G. C. Pay to N.C.O. Good conduct pay is issued to non-commissioned officers from the 1st July 1882.

Major Morgan proceeded on six months' general leave, and Lieutenant Shirres is appointed officiating Commandant of the Battery on the 7th December 1882.

Major Morgan goes on 6 months' general leave.

Lieutenant H. B. Brownlow joined the Battery on the 27th February 1883.

Lieutenant Brownlow joins.

The Battery marched from Dera Ismail Khan on the 16th March 1883 on relief, and arrived at Abbott-abád on the 8th April 1883.

Battery marches from Dera Ismail Khan to Abbott-abad.

Major Morgan rejoined the Battery and assumed command on the 31st May 1883, and again left on six months' furlough on the 16th June 1884.

Major Morgan rejoins.

Major Morgan vacated the command on promotion to the substantive rank of Major, and Captain Shirres is appointed Commandant by G. G. O. No. 370 of 29th June 1883.

Major Morgan leaves and Captain Shirres is appointed Commandant.

A detachment of the Battery consisting of Captain Shirres, Lieutenant Honner, 1 Súbadár and 34 Non-commissioned Officers and Gunners marched from Abbott-abád on the 11th December 1883 to proceed on active service to Assam. The detachment arrived at Hasan Abdal on 12th December and started by rail for Calcutta on the 13th, and reached Calcutta on the 18th, and were located in Fort William. Leaving Calcutta on the 20th, they proceeded by rail and river steamboat to Tezapore in Assam, which they reached on the 24th December, and joined the Force under Brigadier-General R. S. Hill, c.b., proceeding against the Akka tribe.

A detachment of the Battery proceeds to Assam, 11th December 1883.

Two 150-pounder mountain guns with 244 rounds of ammunition and equipment for half a Battery, all fitted for coolie carriage, were taken over at Tezapore on the 28th.

New equipment received.

An epidemic of Ludhiána disease broke out amongst the horses and mules of the Battery which had been left at Abbott-abád on the 15th December 1883, and two horses and seven mules died.

Ludhiana disease broke out at Abbott-abad on the 15th December 1883.

On the 31st December 1883 the detachment marched from Tezapore to proceed to the front in accordance with urgent

Detachment marches to the front 31st December 1883.

orders from General Hill. They started at 2-45 in the afternoon, and reached Balipura, 18 miles, about midnight. They again started at 10 A. M. next day and reached Dijumukh, 20 miles, about 6 P. M., crossed the river Maj Borelli in boats in the dark, and joined General Sale Hill. The equipment being all carried by coolies, the rate of progression was slow. On the 2nd January 1884 the detachment marched to Camp I, on the 3rd January 1884 to Camp II, and on the 4th January crossed the Maj Borelli from the left to the right bank on rafts constructed of bamboos,—a laborious and somewhat perilous operation. On the 5th January the detachment marched to Camp III. On the 6th Captain Shirres joined a reconnaissance to inspect the enemy's position, and with a working party cleared down the forest and dense jungle upon a position which commanded a part of the enemy's position.

Capt. Shirres
goes on a
reconnaissance
6th
January
1884.

The action
of Tanga
Pani.

On the 7th January 1884 the detachment moved to attack the Akkas and cross the river Tanga Pani. The Artillery fire speedily dislodged the enemy from their lower breastworks, and the infantry crossed under a heavy fire of poisoned arrows, and assisted by the Artillery fire drove the enemy before them through the forest until all their positions had been abandoned. In the evening the Force bivouacked in the enemy's village of Labli. There were no casualties in the Battery, as the enemy were chiefly armed with bows and poisoned arrows, the latter never reaching the Battery; but one of the gun carriages broke. On the 21st January 1884 the detachment commenced its return march, the enemy having delivered up the captives they had carried off and submitted to the conditions imposed on them, and arrived at Tezapore on the 26th January 1884 and Calcutta on the 5th February.

Return com-
menced 21st
January
1884.

Equipment
returned to
arsenal.

The guns and equipment were returned to the arsenal, Fort William, on the 7th February 1884, and the detachment left Calcutta by rail on the 9th February 1884, arriving at

Hasan Abdál on the 17th February and Abbott-abád on the Arrives at
Abbott-abád
19th Feb-
ruary 1884.
19th February 1884.

The following order was issued by Brigadier-General Complimen-
tary order.
R. S. Hill, C. B.—

*Akka Field Force Orders by Brigadier-General R. S. Hill, C. B.
dated Camp Tezapore, 29th January 1884.*

No. 153.

1. Telegraphic instructions having been received from Army headquarters for the Akka Field Force to be broken up, regiments and detachments will return to their respective stations as soon as means of transit can be made available.

* * * * *

2. The Brigadier-General desires to express his thorough satisfaction with the behaviour and conduct of all ranks during the late expedition. Although little resistance was experienced and thereby the soldier's reward of encounter with an enemy was not fully realized, yet full opportunity was given to the troops for the display of some of the highest attributes of a soldier. It is by cheerful performance of duty and endurance of the hardships inseparable from active service that the qualities of troops are displayed, and in this respect the Force which the Brigadier-General had the honor to command has shewed itself worthy of high commendation. The conduct of the expedition presented features of peculiar difficulty from the exceptionally precipitous nature of the densely-clad forest ranges to be traversed and from the fact of two rivers having to be crossed without any appliances except such as could be improvised at the time.

3. The conduct of the troops was on every occasion exemplary, and the harassing duties of convoy and outpost have been diligently and thoroughly performed and exposure and hardship cheerfully borne.

* * * * *

To

* * * * *

CAPTAIN SHIRRES, R.A.

* * * * *

The Brigadier-General's acknowledgments are due for the No. 8776 A,
dated 30th
October
1884 from
the Adjutant
General in
India to Cap-
tain Shirres.
support and assistance afforded him and for the efficient control of their commands

* * * * *

(Sd.) G. A. WAY, LIEUT.-COLONEL,

D. A. A. G.

Lieutenant Honner leaves.

Lieutenant Honner leaves on appointment to the command of No. 5 Garrison Battery on the 20th January 1885.—G. G. O. 689 of 26th December 1884.

Battery marches for Kohat 6th February 1885.

The Battery marched from Abbott-abád for Kohát on the 6th February 1885 and arrived at Kohát on the 22nd February 1885. The route followed was not the regular route laid down. The road leaves Abbott-abád in a westerly direction, crosses over the hills to the river Sirren, and thence over more hills to the Indus, which it strikes at Lállu Galli. Following the left bank of the Indus, it meets the Pindi-Pesháwar Grand Trunk Road about five miles from Attock, and proceeds to Chui and Lumbidhan, joining the regular route at Pind Sultáni. The distance was 15 marches, but some of these were short. The road was a hill one, but in excellent repair when the Battery passed over it. The river Sirren was a little swollen, being up to the mules' dock. The baggage was crossed over on a ferry boat. The Sirren had again to be crossed at Torbela, but the ford was wide and the water shallow. The Harru was forded at Chui, and was shallow. Supplies of grass and grain were plentiful for the requirements of the Battery, and the camping-grounds, although small, were picturesque and in the main good.

Battery marches to Camp of Exercise, Rawalpindi, 16th March 1886.

Under orders from the Assistant Adjutant-General, Punjab Frontier Force, the Battery marched from Kohát on the 16th March 1885 to take part in the Viceregal Camp of Exercise at Ráwpalpindi, and returned to Kohát on the 22nd April 1885.

Battery increased to six guns. A.A.G.s. 355 C., of 13th March 1885.

On the 15th March 1885 orders were received from the Assistant Adjutant-General, Punjab Frontier Force, to increase the establishments and equipment for a strength of six guns, and everything was reported as complete on the 19th June 1885.

Battery warned for active service, April 1885.

The Battery was warned for active service and detailed as part of a Reserve Division, April 1885.

A third Native Officer is sanctioned for the Battery, and Pay Havildár Anokha is promoted Jemadár, 4th May 1885, G. G. O. 341 of 19th June 1885.

Jemadar
Anokha ap-
pointed 3rd
Native Offi-
cer.

Lieutenant Underwood joins as second Subaltern, appointed to the Battery by G. G. O. 183 of 10th April 1885.

Lieutenant
Underwood
joins.

Orders are received from the Assistant Adjutant-General, Punjab Frontier Force, that the Battery will in future consist of four 2·5 inch 7-pounder muzzle-loading screw guns of 400 lbs., and two 3 inch 7-pounder muzzle-loading guns of 200 lbs, the latter to be used as howitzers.

Four screw
guns
ordered.

Lieutenant St. John joins the Battery on appointment as third Subaltern under G. G. O. 595 of 30th October 1885.

Lieutenant
St. John
joins.

Lieutenant Brownlow leaves the Battery on the 17th February 1886 to take the mules, &c., of No. 4 (Hazára) Mountain Battery from Abbott-abád to Calcutta, under telegraphic orders from the Assistant Adjutant-General, Punjab Frontier Force.

Lieutenant
Brownlow
attached to
No. 4 (Hasa-
ra) Mountain
Battery.

355.31(Sur) PUN/NVD

Call No.

355.092 Mags

MAGC

Accession No.

1388

Title Historical record of No.1
(Kohat) Mtn. Bty. P.F.F. 1886

Author

| BORROWER'S NO. | DATE LOANED | BORROWER'S NO. | DATE |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|------|
|----------------|-------------|----------------|------|